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November 1, 2007

Ald. Tony Zielinski  
(414) 286-3769

# Milwaukee Next To Discuss Solar Savings

*Helping Residents Find The Cash To Go Green*

Ald. Tony Zielinski (District 14) is making it easy for Milwaukee residents go green. Following Berkeley, California's own City Council proposal, Zielinski will propose that the City of Milwaukee investigate a plan to potentially cover the cost of solar panels for property owners who agree to pay it back with a future tax assessment on their property.

In Berkeley, the plan suggests a property owner would hire a city-approved solar installer and the city would pay the contractor for solar panel installation. The city financing translates into savings for residents. First, the solar panels will replace much of the electricity delivered by local utilities, lowering homeowners' power bills. Second, because solar panel systems can cost from \$15,000 to \$20,000, often homeowners can't afford such a change. With the city paying the upfront costs and homeowners absorbing the repayment through tax assessments over 20 years, a very substantial change in their property can be had quickly, easily and affordably.

Ald. Zielinski said, "This is a reasonable plan that is beneficial to all involved. Homeowners can save money, the city recovers the cost and all of us benefit from the substantial impact in the resulting reduction of greenhouse gasses."

As Milwaukee continues to adopt new "green" policies and options, the city choosing to implement the solar panel plan affects more than just area residents. Ald. Zielinski said, "We can all make changes on an individual level, but when a city implements a plan this large, the impact is great. Sponsoring the greening of Milwaukee homes impacts not just the homeowner and the city, it also makes us a serious consumer in the solar energy market."

## **Alderman Proposals Solar Panels/ADD ONE**

The Berkeley proposal goes to a full City Council vote on November 6 and Ald. Zielinski plans to offer a similar proposal to Milwaukee's Common Council in the very near future. Ald. Zielinski said, "Milwaukee is a first-class city. We must take the lead on initiatives like this one that have the potential to make a serious impact on the environmental and sustainability markets."